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RJ

Quihi & New Fountain Historical
Society

received
2/26/04

February 26, 2004

Ms. Rini Ghosh,
Surface Transportation Board
Case Control Unit
1925 K Street NW, Room 500
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Subject: STB Finance Docket 34284, Southwest Gulf Railroad Company

Dear Ms. Ghosh,

As a local organization interested in the "formal scoping" process for the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) we hope to assist in identifying some of the issues and concerns of the Quihi and New Fountain community. One of the many concerns includes the potential damage to the cultural, historical, and archaeological sites within the area.

We have been informed the Quihi and New Fountain area may be eligible to become a Federal Historic District. And, our group has begun efforts toward that designation by locating and documenting over sixty homes or sites constructed by the original settlers in the mid 1850s. This is a very important part of the history of the development of Texas and of the settlement of the New World. Whatever is left of these first pioneers must be treasured, protected, and maintained or they will be lost to all future generations. We have also identified two important prehistoric Indian sites and it is quite possible that more sites could be located in the adjacent areas.

The EIS must thoroughly address all the cultural, historic, and prehistoric sites in the area and it must identify and document each site. Also, it must provide for the protection and preservation to those sites located anywhere near the proposed quarry or railroad operations. In addition, the EIS should include an investigation of the potential damage to the entire area by flooding, noise, and vibration.

Our recommendations for this project are to route the railroad well around and away from the Quihi and New Fountain communities. Alternatively, eliminate the entire quarry and railroad project. Thank you for the opportunity to express our

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concerns and we look forward to hearing from you. If we can be of any further assistance, please contact us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'C. Lindsey', written in black ink.

Cynthia Lindsey

Treasurer

cc: U.S. Congressman Henry Bonilla, Senator Frank Madla, Senator John Cornyn,
Medina County Judge Jim Barden, Pct. 1 Commissioner Royce Hartman